

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that each of the cutting inserts has a plurality of corners, including a radially outermost corner, i.e., a corner that is spaced radially farther from the indexing axis than the other corners of the insert. It is also recited that one of the inserts, i.e., an insert whose main plane is oriented laterally relative to the indexing axis (e.g., the insert 3 of the disclosed preferred embodiment) includes a radially outermost corner C1 that lies on a reference plane R1 that is oriented perpendicularly to the indexing axis CL', and that reference plane R1 is spaced axially from the radial outermost corner of at least one other insert (for example, the radially outermost corner of the insert 7).

Claim 1 stands rejected over Maier. However, an important feature in Maier is that the radially outermost corners 22 of the respective insert 21 (i.e., the cutting corners of all inserts) lie on a common reference plane P that is perpendicular to the cutting direction (i.e., perpendicular to the indexing axis D), as set forth at column 6, lines 54-58. That feature is, in effect, also recited in the penultimate paragraph of claim 1 of Maier.

Such an arrangement of Maier is in contrast to the presently claimed invention wherein, as noted above, the reference plane is spaced from the radially outermost corner of at least one other insert.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom
are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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